PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF E-RESOURCES IN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES OF TAMILNADU: A STUDY

SYNOPSIS SUBMITTED TO BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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A Synopsis

1. INTRODUCTION

The opportunity brought about by electronic information sources has in recent year's exerted pressure on educational institutions and their libraries. The pressure on the institutions is the provision of the necessary infrastructure and the actual access to these sources. The pressure on the library and information centers is in the sourcing, acquisition and repackaging of these sources; as well as the provision of necessary guidance to end users.

Libraries all over the world make available a wide variety of electronic information sources for use by the undergraduates, postgraduates, researchers and staff in their respective institutions. These e-resources form an essential part of the reference services provided by the university libraries. But provision is only part of the equation; resources must be utilized by staff and students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Postgraduate education involves learning and studying for degrees or other qualifications for which a first or Bachelor's degree generally is required, and is normally considered to be part of higher education.

University library is defined as "a library or library system established, administered, and funded by a university to meet the information, research, and curriculum needs of its students, faculty, and staff. Some large universities maintain separate undergraduate and graduate libraries."

2 ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES -AN OVERVIEW

Reitz (2004)[i] defined electronic resource as "material consisting of data and/or computer program (s) encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer, by the use of a peripheral device directly connected to the computer, such as a CD-ROM drive, or remotely via a network, such as the Internet." According to her the category includes software applications, electronic texts, bibliographic databases, institutional repositories, websites, e-books, collections of e-journals, etc. Electronic resources not publicly available free of charge usually require licensing and authentication.

Electronic Resources are resources that can be accessed electronically via the Internet or digital media. Electronic resources according to California State University (CSU),(2005)[ii] encompasses electronic databases, both full text and abstract/citation; e-journals, both individual and collections; e-books; e-article delivery services; etc. E-resources can be accessed remotely via the World Wide Web or delivered locally. Electronic Information Resources may be defined as information resources that are available and can be accessed electronically through such computer networked facilities as online library catalogues, the Internet and the World Wide Web, digital libraries and archives, government portals and websites, CD-ROM databases, online academic databases, such as Medline or Commercial databases such as LexisNexis.

3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study aims at analyzing the Performance evaluation of e-resources in private universities of Tamilnadu. It traces out the quantum and duration of time utilization in search of information through internet. The place of access to internet, frequency of access to internet and sources of learning internet are brought under the present study. An analysis of level of utilization of electronic resources relating to N-List, Sciencedirect, Jstor, IEEE, ACM, ASME/ASCE, ProQuest, JGate, Wiley, Medline, Medlab, Dynamed, CAB direct, Web of Science, Biosis abstract, Amazon DynamDB, Amazon Elasticache, Pubmed, ERIC, Google Scholoar, Scirus, PhySCINFO, Text to Speech and CELE X is very essential from the point of view of the present study.

4 NEED OF THE STUDY

Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and in their service structure. Advances in computer applications have brought radical changes in terms of information are gathered, stored, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The application of computers in information processing has brought several products and services to the users. This is very important for university libraries as number of research works are carried out in different areas every year. This persuades many libraries to move towards digital e-resources,

which are found to be less expensive and more useful for easy access. Further, this is especially helpful to distant learners who have limited time to access the libraries from outside and thereby they are seeking the information by dial-up access to commonly available electronic resources, mainly CD-ROM, OPACs and Internet, which are replacing the print media.

This study assessed the utilization of electronic information resources in Hindustan University, VIT University, Karunya University, Abdur Rahman University, Sastra University and Kalasalingam University Libraries by faculty members addressing the objectives namely identifying the availability of e-resources in these University libraries, determining the extent of use and the relevance of e-resources and proposing strategies to promote the usage of e-resources by faculty members. This study was done on the faculty members who are working in the private universities and to find out how far the faculty members are using E-resources to enhance their academic performance. Further, to know whether these universities are investing money to update the libraries to quench the thirst of the library users who are seeking online resources for teaching and learning purpose.

5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the present study is to evaluate the use of e-resources in private universities of Tamil Nadu .In this study, the researcher examines and tries to reason out why the university faculty members are using the electronic resources compared to traditional sources in their teaching and learning process. Further, this study attempts to find out the problems facing by them while using the electronic resources. Also, this study examines the faculty member's satisfaction in terms of using online electronic resources and their suggestions to improve the performance of electronic resources.

6 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In order to pursue this study, the following objectives are framed, in according with the scope of this investigation:

- To analyze the respondents' responses mode of learnt to use internet resources
- To identify the respondents duration and frequency of access with the internet resources
- To find out the respondents' level of utilization of online electronic resources and purposes of utilization of online electronic resources
- To examine the respondents' electronic software use behavior in their teaching and learning process
- To analyze the respondents' reasons for using electronic resources and problems encountered during the utilization of online electronic resources
- To find out the respondents satisfaction in utilization of digital resources.
- To examine the respondents problems in utilization of digital resources.
- To suggest some policy measures towards improving the electronic resources access level.

7 HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses are formulated on the basis of content and coverage of framed objectives and they are tested by employing appropriate statistical tools:

- There is a significant association between occupational status of the respondents' and their mode of learnt to use internet resources
- There is a significant association between occupational status of the respondents and their duration and frequency of access with the internet resources
- The level of utilization of online electronic resources and purposes of utilization of online electronic resources depends on occupational, department and gender status of the respondents
- The reasons for using digital resources and problems encountered during the utilization of online electronic resources depend on occupational, department and gender status of the respondents

- There is a significant variation between occupational and educational status of the respondents and their electronic software use behavior
- 6. There is a significant variation between occupational and educational status of the respondents and their satisfaction in utilization of digital resources.

8 METHODOLOGY

This study attempts to examine the Performance evaluation of e-resources in private universities of Tamilnadu. In this context, the variables relating to information access in internet, duration of access with internet, mode of learning internet operation, frequency of accessing information through internet, level of utilization of online electronic resources, level of utilization electronic software towards accessing information, purposes of using electronic resources towards accessing information relating to teaching and learning process, reasons for accessing electronic resources compared to the traditional sources, satisfaction in utilization of electronic resources and problems in utilization of electronic resources could be identified under exploratory research framework. The identified facts are cross tabulated with the university faculty background, education background and occupational background of the respondents. Thus, it gives an analytical orientation to this study and the design of this study is partly exploratory in nature and partly analytical in nature.

9 SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION

The researcher has employed a well structured questionnaire for collecting the data from the respondents of Hindustan University, VIT University, Karunya University, Abdur Rahman University Sastra University and Kalasalingam University. The researcher sent questionnaires to all the selected staff members. The questionnaires have been designed to elicit background information of the respondents, information access in internet, duration of access with internet, mode of learning internet operation, frequency of accessing information through internet, level of utilization electronic software towards accessing information, purposes of using digital resources towards accessing information relating to teaching and learning process, reasons for accessing digital resources compared to the traditional sources, satisfaction in utilization of electronic resources, problems in utilization of electronic resources and suggestions to improve the performance of Electronic resource in private universities.

10 FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS

In order to study the respondent's online electronic resource utilization and electronic software use behavior, and purposes of using electronic resources, the researcher has applied 5 point rating scale. It includes the very high level 5 point rating score, high level 4 point rating score, moderate level 3 point rating score, low level 2 point rating score and very low level 1 point rating score.

11 DATA ANALYSIS

The collected data are classified and tabulated according to the objectives and hypotheses stated. First, the data are recorded on data sheets and then fed in to the computer personally.

In order to test the hypotheses, the Chi-square test and ANOVA two way model have been applied. The chi-square values are worked out with the help of SX package, and anova two way model is worked out with the help of Excel Package. The general data interpretation is made with the help of percentages and averages.

12 MAJOR FINDINGS

The findings of this study are mainly applicable to the faculty members of selected of the private universities in Tamil Nadu. Only six private universities were chosen for this study as studying of all institutions would be not possible for an individual researcher, owing to constraints of money, time, energy, and efforts. Further, the findings of respondents mode of learnt to use internet reveals the following facts

1.The respondents learnt to use the internet through training courses, self-learning, faculty members, experts in this field and short term courses.

2. The caste wise respondents mainly learnt through short-term IT courses.

3.The results of designation wise analysis reveals that the Assistant Proffesor and Professors learnt to use the internet through training courses.Whereas, the Associate Professors learnt through their colleagues and experts.

4.The departmental wise analysis reveals that the respondents of civil and mechanical engineering mainly learnt through training courses. But the respondents of computer science department and electronics and instrumentation department have high frequency of access with the internet - learnt themselves.

5.The results of length of service wise analysis reveals that the respondents with lengthy service have learnt themselves to work with the internet and respondents with low length of service have learnt to work with the internet through training course and short term IT courses.

6.The results of sex wise analysis reveals that the male respondents mainly learnt themselves, with the help of their colleagues and experts and through training courses. Further, the female respondents mainly learnt to use the internet through short term courses.

7. The respondents of VIT University top the position in their ovaerall satisfaction in utilization of electronic resource in their teaching and learning process ,respondents of Abdur Rahman the second ,respondents of Karunya University the third ,respondents of Sastra University the fourth, respondents of Kalasalingam university the fifth and respondents of Hindustan University the last.

13 CHAPTERIZATION

The first chapter is introductory in nature. It gives a brief description about the need and purpose of conducting user studies.

The second chapter deals with review of literature.

The third chapter is devoted to research design. It deals with objectives, hypotheses and methodology of the study.

The fourth chapter is related to institutional profile.

The fifth chapter is related to results and discussion. It analyses the whole data pertaining to Internet use behavior of the faculty members.

The sixth chapter presents a brief summary of the study, conclusion and suggestions.